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|  <p>2002 CAVALIER - 4 door - AT-4 - still under factory warranty - Two to choose from - Only \$159⁰⁰ per month - \$1,000 down - 60 months wac</p> |  <p>2001 NISSAN MAXIMA - 20th anniversary - one owner - like new - AT - sunroof - leather - SHARP!!! You are always safe shopping for a Cook automobile!!</p> |  <p>2002 SATURN - AT - Only 17,000 miles - Only \$189⁰⁰ per month - \$1,000 down - 60 months wac</p> |
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|  <p>2002 MUSTANG - pw & l, tile, cruise, low mileage</p> |  <p>2002 FORD WINDSTAR - rear air - 4 door - nice</p> |  <p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER - one owner - like new - under warranty</p> |
|  <p>2001 LINCOLN TOWN CAR "SIGNATURE" - extra clean - fully loaded - great value</p> |  <p>1998 GMC YUKON SLT - one owner - like new - only 51,000 miles - must see</p> |  <p>2000 CADILLAC DEVILLE - low miles - like new - must see</p> |
|  <p>2001 TAHOE LS - AT-8 - power locks/cruise - sharp</p> |  <p>2000 FOCUS SE - pretty color - automatic</p> |  <p>2003 F250 FORD SUPER DUTY V-10 pkg - 4x4 - only 6,000 miles - local trade</p> |
|  <p>2002 MERCURY SABLE - PS - PW/locks - tilt - cruise - alum wheels</p> |  <p>2001 FORD F-150 SUPER CREW LARIET leather interior - V8 - automatic</p> |  <p>1997 Z71 EX CAB SPORTSIDE - like new AT-8</p> |



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN


YOU KNOW THAT A COOK DEAL IS A GOOD DEAL - ALWAYS HAS BEEN - COME SEE US!

FAIR PRICES • TOP NOTCH SERVICE • QUALITY VEHICLES

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Round & About
with Eria

INSIDE
Nelson-Johnson
announce May 24
wedding plans

INSIDE
New Brockton
High School
holds first Spring
Musical

The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 47 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, May 8, 2003 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Kleinert's employees receive letter terminating their employment

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Most, if not all, Kleinert's employees in Elba were recently given a letter dated May 2, 2003, terminating their employment. The letter indicated the company "will shortly wind-

down some of its operations at the Elba, Alabama facility commencing on Monday, May 5, 2003 and continuing until this facility is closed." It further stated that these Elba positions will be eliminated between May 5, 2003 and May 19, 2003.

Kleinert's began operations in Elba a little over 30 years ago and company employment grew to about 1,000 before most American sewing operations began the move to foreign countries. Employment has steadily declined from that point to

being basically a warehousing and business office when this letter was circulated. The addition of the Buster Brown label of children clothing and the related factory outlet store, added a few employees during the final years.

On Tuesday of this week only a small, small cadre of employees were present at the large Elba facility, located on U. S. 84 West, just past the live-stock stockyards.

According to the May 2nd letter, some of the employees may be asked to stay on after the May 19th date "to assist with the final shutdown process, after which their employment will cease."

The termination letter indicated to employees that the company's senior secured cred-

it agreement was declared in default around the first of January. However the lenders agreed not to take action against the companies for a period of time and thus Kleinert's was able to continue to operate.

During the time between that default and to thus save the company and keep it open and operational, management had been unable to provide the above information to the employees any earlier.

The May 2nd letter was one day after final refusal from the primary lenders to extend the senior secured credit agreement and management was unable to secure alternate long range financing.

2nd, no further loans would be made under the original agreement. This refusal of additional financing "left the company with no alternative but to wind down such operations."

The employees were told that since confidentiality was essential to the success of the search for additional financial support and to thus save the company and keep it open and operational, management had been unable to provide the above information to the employees any earlier.

The May 2nd letter was one day after final refusal from the primary lenders to extend the senior secured credit agreement and management was unable to secure alternate long range financing.



FUN RUN FOR ALL AGES...The "Celebrate...Elba 150" Fun Run/Walk was held Saturday, May 3, and proved to be an adventure for all ages. While some participants chose to finish as quickly as possible, others took a leisurely walk around downtown Elba. The participants gathered at the Elba Senior Citizens Center early Saturday morning, and the threat of rain probably had everyone moving in a higher gear. The quickest time of the morning was just over six minutes while those in the rear of the pack finished just under 20 minutes. Above, Doris Cooper, the event's oldest participant, leads a group of walkers around the first section of the mile route. Those following closely include Miss Elba Anna Anderson, Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley and "Celebrate...Elba 150" committee chairman Jimmy Harrison. Also shown in the background are participants Tina Morgan, Neil Grantham and Beth Henderson. Additional pictures from the event can be found on Page 3.

With questions of funding lingering

Coffee County BOE decides to be patient and hopeful

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, May 1, with the question of state funding on everyone's mind.

Superintendent Dr. Linda Ingram said she had been involved in a superintendent's meeting earlier in the week with Gov. Bob Riley and State Superintendent Ed Richardson in which Ingram said she returned from that meeting with Riley's request on her mind.

"He (Gov. Riley) asked us to be patient and be hopeful," she said.

Ingram told board members Thursday night she would be "patient and hopeful" for as long as possible, but something would have to be done sooner rather than later if no guarantee of funding was offered.

"If we don't have a guarantee in funding, there are going to be some cuts," she said.

If cuts do need to be made, Ingram said, the board will look at doing this by a reduction in

force through non-tenured teachers.

In regards to possible cuts, she said support personnel will need to have a 15-day notice, which means a decision will need to be made by May 15. As for teachers, she said they need to be notified on or before the last day of school which is Friday, May 30.

Therefore, Ingram said the board will more than likely have to call a meeting or meetings before these dates.

The discussion of capital projects finally reached the point of awarding the bid Thursday evening as ZeDot of Wetumpka received the job of remodeling the office area and library at Zion Chapel Elementary School, installing the air conditioning unit at the New Brockton High School auditorium and replacing the wiring at Kinston.

The company's low bid was for \$348,999, and Ingram rec-

ommended the board accept this bid with the option to negotiate for value engineering.

After awarding the project to ZeDot, the superintendent said the money used to fund these projects is earmarked and can only be used for capital improvement projects.

Ingram said she hopes the company will be able to begin the project around the first of June and complete them while the students are out for the summer vacation.

The board approved several personnel changes Thursday evening including the acceptance of six different retirement requests. The matters accepted included:

Certificated
* Accept the retirement of Diane English, second grade teacher at New Brockton Elementary School, effective

Please See BOE, Page 3

Area Happenings

NEWS BRIEF

The Coffee County Elba Division Grand Jury met in regular session on Tuesday, April 28.

The Grand Jury inspected a total of 105 cases and handed down 94 indictments with 73 of those being felonies and 21 being misdemeanors. The Grand Jury returned 11 on Elba, and no cases were submitted for further prosecution.

At approximately 10:30 a.m., the Grand Jury was escorted to the Elba Jail by Sheriff's Office personnel.

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION will hold its monthly meeting Thursday, May 8, at the Coffee County Fair Center. For more information please call Richard Steele at 334-793-1924 or Al Leggett at 334-366-7540.

UNVEILING OF SPECIAL CIVIL GRANT MARKER DEDICATION for Eva William Rogers Martin, husband of Mrs. Albert Martin, the last known survivor of the War Between the States, will be Saturday, May 10, at 10:30 a.m., at Cook Springs Primitive Baptist Church in Opp. The Opp High School Band will perform, and refreshments will be provided with Mrs. Martin. A Dutch treat lunch will be served at Martin's Cafe after the dedication.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE LATE Mrs. Mary Ann (Mama) Williams will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, at 6 p.m. at the Elba High School. The service will be held at the Elba High School. The service will be held at the Elba High School.

ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Elba High School. The meeting will be held at the Elba High School.



EATERY GETS NEW OWNERS AND NAME...One of Elba's restaurants recently underwent some changes as the former Josie D's became 20/20 Cafe under the ownership of Mitch and Joyce Purvis. Not only do Mitch and Joyce own and operate the restaurant, but they fully represent the meaning of the name. The Elba family operated business with their children, Ben and Sara, also working at the restaurant. The Elba Chamber of Commerce officially welcomed the Purvis family into Elba's food industry last Thursday, May 1, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Those present included (from left): Junior Miss Elba Cameron Irvin, Sam Cooper, Kaye Whitworth - executive director of the chamber, Doris Matthews, Jeremy Pippin, Barry Giles, Future Little Miss Elba Annsley Padgett, Mitch Purvis - owner, Elba Mayor James Grimes, Laura Prettyman, Jimmy Harrison, Sara Purvis, Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley, Kenneth Calhoun, Herby McCall and Miss Elba Anna Anderson.

BRAINSTORMS

with Ferrin Cox

Bad news seems to bring more bad news these days. During the past weekend the rumors began circulating of a permanent shutdown at Kleiner's of Elba. Monday and Tuesday it became more than a rumor as employees began packing up their personal belongings and taking them home for the last time. Company officials were guarded in their statements of what was going on and basically said that the May 2nd letter given to employees would be the company's statement at this time. Kleiner's has been a good community supporter during their time here and the jobs furnished by this nationwide sewing operation have fed and clothed a lot of the community's children. We accepted the shift of their sewing work to Central America as part of a changing society, but this apparent complete shutdown of another major U.S. employer should be a wakeup call to all Americans.

Annually a rather large group of Coffee County fishermen travel to South Florida for a week of bream fishing. That usually is followed by a huge fish fry for family and friends. One of the original members of this group was Elba attorney Jackson W. (Bill) Stokes. Well this year Bill didn't make the trip... said his health wouldn't allow him to sit on a boat all day. Therefore his "former" fishing buddies picked out the very largest bream caught and brought it back to Elba just for Bill. Now understand, they didn't present it to him on ice or fried, or even dressed, etc., but hanging on the radio antenna of his truck. As a fisherman, we can tell you... that was an insult and calls for severe retaliation but Bill just laughed. He probably looked at the monster hanging on his truck and had flashbacks of sitting on his boat in the hot sun, slapping at biting yellow flies and/or mosquitoes with one hand and trying to land another of those big bream with the light fishing rig he enjoys using. All the while he was probably remembering act balancing, he was performing with an open can of potted meat and a few broken saline crackers on his worm juice stained pants leg.

Elba officials continue to court potential new and/or expanded existing industry for the community and come away feeling good about their presentations and the incentive package offered. However, time and time again Elba is number two on the list and left by the roadside as these new companies locate somewhere "closer to... well closer to something or another". During the last several weeks they have put their best foot forward again. No positive answer has been received as of press time, but then neither has a negative answer been heard, indicating it is all right to keep our fingers crossed. Regardless of the ultimate outcome of this latest venture, or the next ten, Elba city officials are working closely with industry and with state agencies in an effort to create more and good paying jobs in the community. We salute them and their efforts.



TIGER TWIRLERS TAKE SECOND...These Tiger Twirlers recently competed at the Ms. Majorette of the South regional twirling contest in Wetumpka, Ala. The group won second place in the Junior Dance Twirl division. They have been twirling for two and a half years and are students of Julie Parrish. Those pictured include: (kneeling, l to r) - Kelly Corder, Gabby Pope and Kaitlin Calhoun; (standing, l to r) - Jo Jo McBride, Cortlin Lee, Shelby Brunson and Taylor Creel. Not pictured is Ashley Bailey.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 Months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13

EDITORIAL

DRUGS

(Continued from Page One)

residence, the investigators found a meth lab in the final stage of production. They also found meth oil, a finished product, two semi-automatic handguns, chemicals, glassware and other associated paraphernalia used in the production of methamphetamine.

A hazardous materials team responded from Birmingham to handle the clean up of the toxic waste.

Gregory Bowden, age 40, of 5280 Sheffield Road, Enterprise, was arrested and charged with unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance, first degree, unlawful possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of of

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, April 28, 2003, investigated the following incidents: three for theft of property, one reckless endangerment, one public intoxication, one disorderly conduct, one homicide, one leaving the scene of an accident, one fowl running, at large, one private property accident, one assault, one possession of marijuana, one possession of drug paraphernalia and one criminal trespassing.

The following arrests were made: five for failure to appear, one for public intoxication, one for disorderly conduct, one for reckless endangerment, one for contempt of court, one for possession of marijuana and one for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: two for driving with a revoked driver's license, one for attempting to elude, one for reckless driving, ten for no proof of insurance, one for speeding, three for a switched tag, four for driving with a suspended driver's license, one for no insurance, one for an open container, three for not wearing a seat belt and one violation against the child restraint law.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:

MONDAY, APRIL 28 - River stage - 13.09 feet (6:43 a.m.). Routine activity.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 - River stage - 13.28 feet (6:13 a.m.). Elba Fire Department dispatched to cleanup a diesel spill in front of Head 2 Toe Salon (12:37 p.m.). Wreck reported on Reese Ave. (5:46 p.m.). Report of a fight about to take place at Burch's Trailer Court on Martin Luther King Dr. (11:43 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 - River stage - 12.58 feet (6:46 a.m.). Coffee County EMS dispatched to cleanup a diesel spill in front of Head 2 Toe Salon (12:37 p.m.). Wreck reported on Reese Ave. (5:46 p.m.). Report of a fight about to take place at Burch's Trailer Court on Martin Luther King Dr. (11:43 p.m.).

BULLETIN BOARD

- **ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.N.S.** - addition recovery ministry services - Thurs - 7 p.m. - Ino Baptist Church. Call 565-3970 or visit the website: www.inobaptist.com
- **SOCIAL SECURITY REP.** - Courthouse 4th Flg. (12:30-1:30) Call FREE 1-800-772-1211
- **ROTARY CLUB** - Tuesday @ Noon-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
- **ELBA CITY COUNCIL** - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6 p.m. - City Hall
- **WATER & ELECTRIC** - Tuesday following 2nd Monday - 6 p.m. - City Hall
- **ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN.** - Tues. - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
- **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** - every Monday 6:30 p.m. - Elba United Methodist Church enter on side on W. Davis St. - Maggie Garrett Classroom
- **COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION** - 2nd & 4th Monday - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton
- **LIONS CLUB** - 2nd & 4th Tues. - 6:30 p.m. - Senior Citizen Center
- **ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD** - 1st Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. - Sgt. Office
- **AMERICAN LEGION** - 1st Tuesday of every month - 7:00 p.m. - Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.
- **MASONIC LODGE 170** - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month - 7 p.m. - Band Room @ Elba High School
- **COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN.** - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. - Club House
- **COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN** - 3rd Wed. Noon - Colony Inn, Enterprise
- **ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY** - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll Hangar at the Airport
- **AARP** meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month
- **ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB** - 1st & 3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room
- **NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB** - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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the residence and were assisted by deputies Grantham and Tinsell of the Coffee County Sheriff's Dept. officers Kevin Wise and Neal Bradley of the Elba Police Dept., officer Jason Southerland of the Opp Police Dept. and Robin Daniel and Ronnie White of the Crenshaw County Sheriff's Dept.

Upon execution of the warrant, the officers found chemicals and assorted paraphernalia used to make methamphetamine. They also located methamphetamine that had recently been produced and a semi-automatic rifle.

A hazardous materials team responded from Spanish Fort, Ala. to clean up the toxic materials.

Andy Ray Bowers, age 43, of 1621 County Road 353, Elba, was arrested and charged with unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance, first degree

One of a kind. Just like Mom.

Teleflora's Venetian Glass Bouquet

She'll treasure this truly one-of-a-kind, hand-blown glass vase - so beautifully recreated in a style begun in 12th century Italy. For nationwide same-day delivery of this lovely Gift Bouquet, call or visit our shop.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11

Teleflora's Think Pink Bouquet

Crafted of metal with a pink chrome finish, this stunning Scandinavian style watering can comes filled with an artistically arranged bouquet of bright seasonal flowers.

Bradley Florist & Gifts
Teleflora 1951 Hickman Ave. - 897-3422

Elba Chamber of Commerce

Calendar of Events and Meetings

May 2003

May 1 - Ribbon Cutting at 20/20 Cafe, Elba Chamber of Commerce Board meeting

May 3 - "Celebrate Elba 150" Fun Run/Walk at 8 a.m.

May 6 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

May 7 - Azalea Garden Club meeting

May 8 - Elba High School Honors Day

May 11 - Mother's Day

May 12 - Elba City Council meeting

May 13 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

May 15 - Elba Chamber of Commerce Board meeting

May 17 - Armed Forces Day

May 18 - Elba High School Baccalaureate

May 20 - Elba Rotary Club meeting; Elba High School graduation

May 22 - Elba City Schools' last day for students to attend.

May 26 - Memorial Day

May 27 - Elba Rotary Club meeting; Elba City Council meeting

June 3 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

June 4 - Azalea Garden Club meeting

June 9 - Elba City Council meeting

June 10 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

June 14 - Flag Day; "Celebrate Elba 150" Old Timers Softball Tournament

June 15 - Father's Day

June 17 - Elba Rotary Club meeting; New Seasons Study Club meeting

June 24 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

July 4 - Independence Day

July 8 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

July 12 - "Celebrate Elba 150" Birthday Bash

July 14 - Elba City Council meeting

July 15 - Elba Rotary Club meeting; New Season's Study Club meeting

July 17 - Elba Chamber of Commerce Board meeting

July 22 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

July 28 - Elba City Council meeting

July 29 - Elba Rotary Club meeting

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BOE

(Continued from Page One)

the last day of school.

* Accept the retirement of Margie Treadwell, teacher at New Brockton High School.

* Enter into a contract with Margie Treadwell to teach three class periods daily for the 2003-04 school year.

* Accept the resignation of Jamie Wiggins as Head Softball Coach only. Wiggins will retain her other job assignments.

* Accept the retirement of Jean Liptror, child nutrition program worker at Zion Chapel School. Her last day of work will be May 10.

* Accept the retirement of Mary Patterson, special education aide at Kinston School. Other matters discussed and approved by the board during the meeting included:

* Approved out-of-state travel for the Parliamentary Procedure Team from New Brockton High School. The team placed first in the state and will travel to Philadelphia, Pa. to compete in the national competition.

* Approved holding summer school at New Brockton High School for grades 7-12.

* Declared three buses and several computers and equipment as surplus property for sale. Also declared a 1970 Ford dump truck and a broken John Deere lawn mower as surplus.

"Celebrate...Elba 150" Fun Run/Walk pictures...



FUN RUN WINNERS... There were several different winning categories for the "Celebrate...Elba 150" Fun Run/Walk, and the winners of each included (from left): Sonya Bedsole (6:24), Ages 41-55; Katie Vaughan (6:25), Ages 19-29; Joel and Ann Cline (12:45), Ages 30-40; Mark Wells (10:51), Ages 9-12; Betty Hicks (12:27), ages 55 & up; Reagan Kelley (11:39), ages 5-8; Cameron Irwin and Jason Curran (7:50), ages 13-18. Also pictured is Doris Cooper, the oldest contestant. The youngest contestant was Grace Cline, and the two contestants traveling the longest distance to participate were Elizabeth Bedsole and Chip Griffith from Tuscaloosa.



Beth Henderson gives it her all and still has a smile on her face as she jogs through the final stretch of the mile-long course while Little Miss Elba Reagan Kelley keeps pace in front.



Despite a threat of rain a large group was on hand last Saturday morning to participate in the Fun Run/Walk.



Called to Duty and Serving Their Country

Randolph Shon Willis
Demetrius Siler
Jason Jordan
Edward Jonathan Tillis
Michael A. DeSandro
Marian Smith
David Head Jr.
Jeremy Blenn
Bradford Ashley
Chad Chancellor
Amber Ellison Simmons
Dexter Watkins
Melody Byrd Bryant
Kerry Hardy

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INSIDE

Area high school
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 48

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, May 15, 2003

2 Sections, 26 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

During New Brockton Town Council meeting Council members hear complaint of vulgarity in one neighborhood

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council held its regular monthly meeting Monday evening, May 5, and the group listened as one citizen reported a continuing problem with vulgar noise in his neighborhood.

Former town councilman Ricky Strickland addressed the members and said there is a continuing problem with vulgar talking between the residents of a house and mobile home in his neighborhood.

Strickland said although he is no longer a council member, he still receives phone calls with complaints about the noise, and he agreed to come and speak with the council concerning this matter.

After allowing council members to hear a taped example of the ongoing problem, Strickland said he personally has called the law several times to come out and put an end to the situation. He said, at times, the noise is so loud that he can hear the yelling inside his home with the doors and windows shut and the television on.

He also said one of the residences has a fire burning every night without first acquiring a burn permit which is now required in New Brockton.

"This is an every night occurrence, and it goes into the wee hours of the night," Strickland said.

New Brockton Police Lt. Bill King was present at the meeting and said the disturbance usually breaks up before the officers can get there, therefore, he said they are only able to tell the residents to quiet down.

"If we (officers) don't hear anything, we can't prove they are doing it," he said.

Mayor Charles Cole suggested either the chief or one of the officers go and talk with the property owner concerning the ongoing situation.

Also, councilman Ron McMonagle asked King to have an officer go by the two residences every hour on the hour during the evening hours for a short while. He said the more noticeable presence of the officers will more than likely quiet the noise down and make the neighborhood more peaceful for the other residents.

There's no reason anyone should have to go through that," councilman Jody Stuckey said in regards to the vulgar noise.

Council members were made aware of a mechanical problem with the newest police vehicle in which

Cole said the diagnosis called for a new motor. He said the warranty went out at 36,000 miles and the vehicle currently has just over 41,000 miles.

Cole also said another of the police vehicles was in need of mechanical work, therefore, he asked for the council's permission to borrow approximately \$5,000 to have both vehicles repaired.

After a lengthy discussion, council members decided to have the vehicle inspected at Cook Ford in Elba to see exactly what needed to be done. At that point, a decision would be made about what to do to get the vehicles repaired.

In other business, the council discussed a drainage problem on Medley Road in which Cole said he had asked the county engineer to look at it to see

Please See TOWN, Page 3

Brantley receives national school improvement award

In the last several years, a project of the Brantley Garden Club has been to improve the Brantley School grounds. A few of the undertakings the Garden Club has developed and maintained at the school are the flower beds around each building, planted shrubs, trees and created an Outdoor Classroom for educating students and teachers about the environment.

The Outdoor Classroom consists of a butterfly garden, vegetables the students plant and harvest, a gazebo for shelter and lectures, bird and butterfly houses and a frog pond.

This is a tremendous plus for students at Brantley because they are getting hands-on experience. Since many of these children have never planted anything, the outdoor classroom allows them to see plants and butterflies grow and produce. They also learn plant and butterfly names.

The garden, being an extended Outdoor Classroom, hopefully in years to come will provide these students a more concerned attitude about the environment. Students also experience a real life emphasis on what their studies are about.

Teachers have gotten as much out of this garden as the students. It gives teachers a better lesson plan since their lessons are being taught right in the garden, which enhances what they could be getting from a textbook.

Now at last, these projects made available by the Garden



Brantley School principal Waylon Bush is presented an award and certificate from Brantley Garden Clubs president, Reba Mason.

Club at Brantley School have been recognized. On March 6, 2003 at the Garden Club of Alabama Conference in Perdido Beach, Ala., the Brantley Garden Club was honored with several first place awards. One award, given by the Deep South Region - National Garden Club for School Ground Improvement, was presented to the Brantley Garden Club for its work at Brantley School in Brantley, Alabama.

This plaque, engraved with the Brantley Garden Club 2003 nameplate, will hang for one year at the school. In the spring of 2004 the trophy will be returned to the Deep South Region office for next year's recipient. A certificate of achievement for this award will remain at the school.

The first place trophy and certificate, was presented to the Brantley Garden Club for School Ground Improvement after submitting a Book of Evidence to the Garden Club of Alabama. Presently, the Brantley Garden Club is the only club in the State of Alabama to receive this prestigious award, and this accomplishment has only been made possible through the endeavors and commitment of the members of the Brantley Garden Club, as well as, grants and donations from businesses and other community leaders. Club members said volunteers from the community have also been very helpful.

Students and teachers at the school provided assistance in helping maintain and improve the school grounds.



MEASURING THE LEVEE...With all the dirt being moved around in Elba these days, everyone seems to want to know exactly how wide the reconstructed levee will be when finished. With that in mind, two of Elba's ambassadors - Miss Elba Anna Anderson (left) and Junior Miss Elba Caineron Irwin (right) - recently went on a mission to find the answer. The ladies took their measuring tape and climbed atop the levee next to the famous Pea River where U.S. Highway 84 crosses it and soon discovered the "new" levee to be one of a gigantic nature. Before this project got started, officials said the base of the reconstructed levee would be 65 feet wide, and these young ladies were able to confirm that number for local residents. Widening of the levee continues all around Elba as weather permits, and local citizens are still encouraged to take notice of the construction areas. Also, motorists are reminded of the closing of Hwy. 87 next to Windham Lumber Company. This area will be closed until further notice as workers prepare the area for rehabilitation of the levee there.

Commission votes to purchase four vehicles for sheriff's department

by Linda Hodge, Editor

After several weeks of discussion, the Coffee County Commission put an end to its deliberations Monday, May 12, of what to do about new sheriff's department vehicles with the approval of a motion to purchase four new vehicles.

Sheriff Ben Moates met with commissioners last Wednesday during their working session to discuss how many cars to purchase for the department.

Commissioner Tom Grimley said the group had talked about purchasing eight, four, three or just two new vehicles, and after all was said and done, he made a

motion to go ahead and purchase four vehicles. The motion also gave the county administrator permission to proceed with borrowing the money from the county depository.

His motion received a second from commissioner Bernest Brooks, but commissioner Doug Dalrymple said he felt the commission should stay in line with a previous motion to purchase two vehicles.

Commissioner Jim Thompson said he was the one to come up with the idea of purchasing eight vehicles because a recent report showed a lot of money being spent for maintenance on the current vehicles with worn out equipment.

Thompson said buying less cars would only be "putting a band aid" on the problem, and he said he gave the county a way to fix the problem with his suggestion.

Grimley's motion passed by a 4-3 vote with commissioners Grimley, Linda Westbrook, Kayo Lewis and Bernest Brooks voting in favor and Dalrymple, Thompson and Robert Stephens voting against it.

The fire alarm system at the county jail became the hot topic of Monday's meeting when jail administrator Zack Ennis told commissioners the alert system still was not working. He said the alert system has not worked since a new computer system was installed, and wiring

appears to be the problem.

County maintenance supervisor Phil Rugg assured commissioners the fire sprinkler system, which is heat activated, is working and the sprinklers will automatically kick in if the temperature inside the jail reaches a certain degree, however, he said the alert system which buzzes to notify occupants of the fire is not working. Also, the computer monitor will no longer show an indicator of where exactly the fire is located in the building.

County administrator Wilson Mobley said the company which installed the alarm system when the jail was built in 1991 has since gone out of business, and no other company has been located yet that can hook the system back up.

Commissioner Thompson said he definitely thinks the situation should be a major priority and asked that someone be contacted this week to come and look at what it will take to get

the alert system working again.

Commissioner Robert Stephens then made a motion with a second from Lewis to have Mobley contact Fire Alarm Systems to come and look to see if the current system can be fixed by adding the alarm or give the county a price on a new system to be discussed at the next meeting.

This motion passed by a unanimous vote; however, later in the meeting, Dalrymple made a motion with a second from Lewis to first have an electrician look at getting power to the buzzer of the current system. This motion passed by a 5-1-1 vote. Commissioner Brooks cast the opposing vote with commissioner Stephens abstaining from the vote. Stephens cited his reason as being because the county employs an electrician in which Rugg said had already looked at

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Work begins on section of Hwy. 84 project

The Alabama Department of Transportation informs the public that W.S. Newell & Sons, Inc., began work on Tuesday, May 6, for constructing the grade and drain on the relocation of U.S. Hwy. 84 from East of County Road 507 to West of Double Bridges Creek in New Brockton in Coffee County. The length of the project is 4,242 miles and

expected to be completed within 300 working days.

The contractor has erected advance construction warning signs to advise the traveling public of the construction work zone. Also the contractor will utilize flagman and portable signs to safely guide motorists through the construction work zone. Motorist are urged to reduce speed and use caution when traveling through and around the equipment and workers.

Any inquiry concerning this work should be directed to the following: Mr. Evan Mathews, Project Superintendent, Tel. (334)215-8000; Mr. Mark Graham, District Engineer, Tel. (334)347-8166; or Mr. Franklin T. Bowers, Project Engineer, Tel. (334)393-7364.

Area Happenings

COFFEE COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE will be held Friday, May 16, on the campus of Enterprise-Dade Community College. The opening ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. with the luncheon ceremony at 9 p.m.

THE 3RD ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION will be Saturday, May 17, at Cadmus Army Airfield, Ft. Rucker, and will include static displays of current and historic Army aircraft and military ground vehicles, a concert by the 9th Army Band, a flying demonstration, food, refreshments, an obstacle course for children, and fun for all ages. Admission is free, and the activities will begin at 9 a.m. Continuation free show the hours will be provided from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. between Calum and parking areas on First Rucker and in Daleville.

ELBA HEAD START is now taking applications for children aged 3 years or older for the 2003-2004 school year. Find out how to apply by stopping by the Elba Head Start office, next to SouthEast Bank or call 897-3673.

NOTICE

Water Service Assessment for Coffee County Water Authority has been completed and will be available for review June 5, 2003. Any one with a question may call Harold Johnson at 234-864-2344.